

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 INT-08 GSA-01 OEP-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 CEA-02 STR-08 RSR-01 /189 W

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R 201033 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3301

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBSSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 4911

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, JA

SUBJECT: INITIAL PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S
ENERGY MESSAGE.

SUMMARY. PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE
WAS GENERALLY MILD. MANY OF EDITORIALS CONSISTED OF
RESTATEMENT OF HIGHLIGHTS OF MESSAGE. MOST FREQUENT
COMMENT WAS THAT MESSAGE AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF INTER-
NATIONAL PROBLEMS -- BOTH RELATIONS WITH OPEC AND
COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS OIL FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. NIOH KEIZAI (JAPAN'S WALL STREET JOURNAL) BLAMED
US ENERGY CRISIS ON INADEQUATE POLICY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PRESSURES WHICH CREATED OIL SUPPLY SHORTAGE. IT MENTIONED
CRITICISM IN JAPAN THAT MESSAGE DID NOT INCLUDE QTE
CONCRETE MEASURES FOR INTERNATIONAL ADJUSTMENT OF OIL
SUPPLY AND DEMAND AMONG OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES, OPEC,
AND INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES UNQTE. HOWEVER, IT
PRAISED MESSAGE AS REPRESENTING QTE BOLD SHIFT IN
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POLICY UNQTE. IT THOUGHT MESSAGE MIGHT ACCELERATE RISE IN OIL PRICES AND STIMULATE OPEC TO NEW OFFENSIVE. EDITORIAL RECOMMENDED THAT IN RESPONSE TO US POLICY JAPAN DIVERSIFY ITS OIL RESOURCES, MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH OIL- CONSUMING COUNTRIES, OPEC, AND INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES, INTENSIFY ITS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES IN MIDDLE EAST, IMPROVE GATHERING AND ANALYSIS OF ENERGY INFORMATION, IMPROVE ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES, AND INCREASE EFFORTS AT DESULPHURIZATION BECAUSE OF IN- ABILITY LOSSEN ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AS ENERGY MESSAGE PROPOSES FOR THE US. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT JAPAN MUST ORGANIZE DOMESTIC OIL INDUSTRIES TO AVOID EXCESS COMPTITION AND MUST EXTEND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSITANCE TO OIL- PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

2. YOMIURI ALSO CONCENTRATED ON ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JAPANESE ACTIONS. IT STATED THAT ALTHOUGH ENERGY MESSAGE CALLED FOR INCREASED US SELF- SUFFICIENCY IN ENERGY, US DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EAST OIL WILL INCREASE. THEREFORE, JAPAN MUST CONCLUDE LONG- TERM CRUDE PURCHASE AGREEMENTS WITH OPEC COUNTRIES. JAPAN CAN DO THIS BY ASSISTING PRODUCERS WITH OIL REFINERY CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPING PRODUCERS' TANKER FLEETS, AND INDUCING THEM TO INVEST DOWNSTREAM. THIS MUST BE DONE WITHOUT DISRUPTION OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL OIL SUPPLY MECHANISM. SECOND, JAPAN MUST EXPAND DESULFURIZATION TECHNOLOGY BECAUSE QTE US HIGH PRICE ENERGY POLICY UNQTE WILL ESPECIALLY EFFECT LOW SULPHUR CRUDE PRICES. THIRD, JAPAN MUST MAINTAIN COOPERATIVE REALTIONS WITH THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. EDITORIAL EXPRESSED QTE DOUBTS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THAT WAS CALLED FOR BY THE MESSAGE UNQTE.

4. MOST OF ASAHI EDITORIAL DEALT WITH HIGHLIGHTS OF ENERGY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, IT STRESSED ENERGY MESSAGE'S LACK OF FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. EDITORIAL EXPECTED THAT US ACTIONS ON OIL QUOTAS AND TARIFFS WOULD CAUSE EXCESSIVE COMPEITION BETWEEN JAPAN AND US IN MIDDLE EAST IN 3 TO 5 YERS. IT NOTED LACK OF MENTION ABOUT RELATIONS WITH OPEC, AND ATTRIBUTED IT TO DILEMMA OVER ARAB- ISRAEL ISSUE.

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TM SANKEI ALSO OUTLINED ENERGY MESSAGE AND NOTED THAT NOTHING

IN THE MESSAGE WAS QTE SHOCKING TO JAPAN UNQTE. IT CON-
FINED COMMENTS TO RECOMMENDATIONS THAT JAPAN DIVERSIFY
SOURCES OF OIL AND ENERGY AND REVISE THE INDUSTRIAL
STRUCTURE IN ORDER TO CONSUME LESS ENERGY.

6. MAINICHI STATED RELIEF THAT MESSAGE DID NOT CONTAIN
QTE A MORE AGGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL POOICY UNQTE. IT
POINTED OUT THAT US ENERGY CRISIS IS PRIMARILY A
DOMESTIC ISSUE WHILE JAPAN' S CRISIS IS ALSO EXTERNAL.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO04911
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730447/aaaaitml.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980127
Subject: INITIAL PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON' S ENERGY MESSAGE.
TAGS: ENRG, JA
To: AMEMBSSY THE HAGUE
EA
LONDON
OECD PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

